



6/2/04

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

SB 943 (Kuipers)

SB 943 would require that public instruction on HIV, AIDS, and sex education be age appropriate and emphasize honor and respect for marriage, abstinence until marriage, the psychological consequences of teen sexual activity outside of marriage, parental responsibility, and the positive nature of adoption. Finally, the information clearly must inform students that having sex with someone under the age of 16 is a crime punishable by imprisonment which results in being listed on the sex offender registry for at least 25 years.

- Kuipers 1 (11 amends) was adopted [no RC].
- The Senate concurred with the House changes to SB 943, as amended by the Senate [RC 340: 30 yes, 6 no]. Immediate Effect was given to the bill.

BUDGETS

HB 5509 (Shulman)

Department of Agriculture budget

The Department of Agriculture promotes Michigan agricultural products and protects the public from disease and unsanitary conditions in food production and handling. It regulates product labeling and producer practices for dairy products, animals, and plants, as well as enforcing consumer protection laws in food, standard weights/measures, animal health, plant pests, and diseases.

- Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted.
- Van Woerkom 1A (1 amend) was adopted. Legislative intent: Timely rural partnership reports.
- HB 5509 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- HB 5509 passed with IE [RC 343: 37 yes, 0 no].

HB 5516 (Shulman)

Family Independence Agency budget

The Family Independence Agency (FIA) budget provides funding for a wide range of programs and services to help improve the quality of life in Michigan by protecting children and vulnerable adults, delivering juvenile justice services, and providing support to strengthen families and individuals striving for independence.

- Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted.
- BASHAM 1A (1 amend) was defeated. This would have required FIA to report to the legislature on FIA office closings.
- Cropsey 1B (1 amend) was adopted. Tie-bar to bill requiring a child protective service worker to identify themselves when contacting a person under investigation for alleged child abuse.
- CHERRY 1C (1 amend) was adopted. Abstinence education reference to the sex education bills.
- Birkholz 1D (1 amend) was withdrawn.. \$75,000 in TANF funds for domestic violence shelters in Barry County.
- SCOTT 1E (1 amend) was adopted. This would open the food stamp help line for everyone, not just senior citizens.
- SCOTT 1F (6 amends) was defeated. This would have restored the 7% cut in funding for the Department of Technology.
- Brown 1G (1 amend) was adopted.
- Birkholz 1H (1 amend) was adopted. This would take money from other communities and use it for funding for domestic violence shelters in Barry County.
- HB 5516 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- SCOTT 1 (6 amends) was defeated [RC 344: 18 yes, 19 no (GOP)]. This would have restored the 7% cut in funding for the Department of Technology.
- SCHAUER 2 (1 amend) was defeated [RC 345: 14 yes, 22 no]. This would have removed the funding section inserted by amendment Birkholz 1H.
- HB 5516 passed [RC 346: 24 yes, 13 no]. Immediate Effect was not given to the bill [no RC].

HB 5522 (Shulman)

Military Affairs budget

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs is charged with the training and administration of Army and Air National Guard forces, providing combat-ready military forces during times of national emergency, and performing civil relief operations under the command of the governor during state emergencies. The Department's budget includes administrative and maintenance costs associated with these responsibilities, as well as several National Guard-related programs, such as the Challenge Program and the National Guard Education Assistance Program. The Department has oversight over the following veterans-related programs: state-licensed nursing care at veterans homes in Grand Rapids and Marquette, grant funding to veterans service organizations, and the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund.

- Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted.
- Gilbert 1A (2 amends) was adopted. This would restore the 7% cut in funding for the Department of Technology.
- Cropsey 1B (2 amends) was adopted [no RC]. \$100 point of difference for holiday transit costs.
- HB 5522 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- HB 5522 passed with IE [RC 342: 37 yes, 0 no].

HB 5526 (Shulman)

State Police budget

The Department of State Police provides a wide range of law enforcement services -- including highway patrol, criminal investigations, forensic sciences, motor carrier enforcement, emergency management, highway safety planning, fire investigation, criminal justice data processing, and various specialized law enforcement services.

The Department's responsibilities also include oversight of law enforcement standards in the state through the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and administration of several law enforcement-related grant programs.

- Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted.
- Gilbert 1A (2 amends) was adopted. This would restore the 7% cut in funding for the Department of Technology.
- HB 5526 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- HB 5526 passed with IE [RC 341: 36 yes, 1 no (Patterson)].

THIRD READING

SB 928 (George)

SB 928 would provide another alternative for townships that choose to post, rather than publish, local proceedings, notices and ordinances. The bill maintains the requirement for publishing notices in the newspaper.

Support: MTA.

- Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted.
- SB 928 was moved to 3rd Reading.

SB 953 (Brown)

SB 953 would require the Department of Treasury to “invest surplus funds under the state treasurer’s control” for the purpose of loans for qualified agricultural energy production loans. The Surplus Funds in Treasury Act directs Treasury as to how to treat any extra money. The bill would permit investment of up to \$25 million in certificates of deposit to facilitate loans of up to \$5 million for eligible farmers. The permissible uses of the fund include: construction, operations of agricultural ethanol plants, agricultural processing, methane digesters, and other equipment used to generate electricity from agricultural biomass.

The bill would require the state to put money into funds that would not collect any interest for the state. At the fully funded level of \$25 million with equal repayments for 15 years, the estimated loss in interest earnings to the state would be \$1.6 million.

Support: MI Farm Bureau, MI Electrical Cooperative Association, Kauffman Electrical Equipment -- Methane digesters, biomass, agricultural processing and ethanol plants are all examples of value added farming. Encouraging these types of small agricultural businesses is an important step towards keep agriculture viable in Michigan.

Oppose: MI Environmental Council, Environmentally Concerned Citizens of South Central Michigan -- The bill would require the state to put money into funds for farm enterprises that would not collect any interest for the state. At the fully funded level of \$25 million with equal repayments for 15 years, the estimated loss in interest earnings to the state would be \$1.6 million. No money is allocated to cover the administrative cost of the program within Treasury.

- Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted.
- SB 953 was moved to 3rd Reading.

SB 955 (Brown)

SB 955 would add methane digesters and the necessary electric generating system under the list of personal property that is exempt from tax. Currently, property used for agricultural operations and farm implements are exempt from taxation. This bill would add methane digesters, biomass gasification system and thermal depolymerization system. These bills are intended to encourage use of the listed systems to create energy from animal waste.

Support: MI Farm Bureau, MI Electrical Cooperative Association, Kauffman Electrical Equipment.

Oppose: MI Environmental Council, Environmentally Concerned Citizens of South Central Michigan -- The state does not have the money to allow additional tax exemptions given the current fiscal crisis.

- Committee 1 (S-2) was adopted.
- SB 955 was moved to 3rd Reading.

HB 4983 (TOBOCMAN)

HB 4983 would regulate those who provide services relating to immigration matters, provide exemptions to registration requirements, prohibit certain actions by a registrant, establish administrative and criminal sanctions for violations. This bill is necessary to help ensure that immigrants are not taken advantage of during the immigration paperwork process.

- Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted.
- Garcia 1A (1 amend) was withdrawn.
- Garcia 1B (1 amend) was adopted.
- HB 4983 was moved to 3rd Reading.

HB 5478 (Stahl)

House Bill 5478 provides a complaint procedure for parents who believe a school has violated state law provisions on sex education and communicable disease prevention. The substitute requires that a parent's complaint first be brought at the district level through the superintendent. The superintendent then has 30 days to provide a written report of findings. If a violation has occurred, the written report shall direct corrective action which must be taken within 30 days. If a parent still has an issue, he or she can then go to the intermediate school district superintendent with the same 30 day guidelines applying. If still not satisfied, a parent may then appeal to the Department of Education, which has 90 days to provide a written report. The department shall forfeit 1% of state aid if a district is found in violation and may assess a fee to the district equal to cost of the investigation. The Department must also report to the legislature on the number and nature of these complaints and the cost associated with handling them. The bill is tie-barred to Senate Bill 943, the sex ed bill, that previously passed the Senate.

- Kuipers 1 (S-1) was adopted [no RC].
- HB 5478 was moved to 3rd Reading.